Middle School Program

Although Collegiate is co-educational, our Middle School students are separated by gender for most of their academic classes. This separation is intentional and deliberate. The coordinate system builds self-confidence and allows teachers to better address the developmental and academic needs of each student. The Middle School values dynamic learning and thinking. We believe that learning springs from active engagement and inquiry, progresses through skill development and collaboration with others, and results in imaginative solutions and ideas, breadth of knowledge and depth of understanding. Learning evolves through continuous reflection on the learning process. Each student uses a designated Chromebook during the school day to integrate technology into many areas of study.

Envision Richmond is a unique Capstone experience that embodies the essence of our Middle School program. The entire 8th Grade is immersed in the local community with an intensive leadership and civic engagement curriculum, using design thinking methods and offering solutions to identified needs that improve the Richmond area.

5th Grade

Continued focus on relationships helps students make a smooth transition into Middle School. Each student has the same teacher for advisory and two or three classes.

English
- Writing
- Grammar
- Spelling

Reading
- Comprehension skills through active reading
- Vocabulary development
- Writing in response to reading
- Non-fiction comprehension

History
- Components of culture
- Ancient civilizations and religions focused on water theme
- Content reading
- Research skills

Math (level 6 texts)
- Number theory, ratios, rational numbers and equivalence
- Understanding fraction operations
- Two-dimensional measurement
- Statistics and data analysis
- Problem-solving

Science
- Study of basic concepts in physical, life and earth sciences
- Introduction to lab skills

French, Spanish or Chinese
- Aural and oral repetition format with practice in written expression
- Geography and culture of relevant countries

Technology
- Review basic computer operations including keyboarding and digital organization
- Explore new skills including Google applications, audio and video production, coding/programming, 3D design and printing, and robotics

Physical Education
- Introduction to physical fitness concepts, cardiovascular endurance and wellness
- Skill development and team sport strategies

Fine Arts
- Studio art
- Fundamentals of music and chorus
- Optional Band, Strings and Guitar

6th Grade

The 6th Grade focuses on creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all students. Students continue to refine study skills and reflect on how to make healthy decisions.

English
- Study of grammar
- Use of prefixes and suffixes, antonyms, synonyms and homonyms
- Writing

Reading
- Active literature appreciation, vocabulary enrichment, and comprehension
- Non-fiction comprehension

History
- Modern world geography, history, economics and cultures
- Development of research, writing and note-taking skills

Math
- Math 6 (level 6 and 7 texts)
- Pre-Algebra

Science
- The study of physical, life and earth sciences
- Emphasis on measurement and lab techniques

French, Spanish or Chinese
- Basic vocabulary, dialogues and grammatical concepts
- Geography and culture of relevant countries

Physical Education
- Continued skill development, improvement of cardiovascular endurance, wellness and nutrition

Fine Arts Rotation
- One quarter each of art, drama, music and technology in coed classes
- 6th Grade Process Drama productions
- Optional Band, Strings, Guitar and Chorus
- Technology class includes coding, computer science and engineering

7th Grade

The 7th Grade focus connects Collegiate’s core values to decision-making. More rigorous academic expectations, as well as after-school athletics, require students to further develop personal responsibility and time-management skills. Technology is integrated into many areas of study and students may take their Chromebooks home.

English
- Study of grammar
- Oral and written skill development emphasizing clarity, organization and confidence
- Vocabulary development

United States History
- History from 1850 to 1940

Math
- Pre-Algebra
- Algebra I – a problem-solving approach

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Instrumental Music and Private Lessons
The Instrumental Music Program offers individual and group instruction at all levels in string, wind, brass instruments and guitar. There is no charge for group instruction except for the rental or purchase of the instrument. Piano instruction is also available during the school day.

Middle School Activities
Middle School students have the opportunity to participate in various clubs and activities during specified Activity Periods throughout the week. Included are many activities related to STEAM, coding and robotics.

Middle School Advisory
One of the strengths of independent school education has been the individual attention that students receive from faculty. Through a structured Advisory program in coordination with the Middle School counselors, the School is better equipped to meet the social, emotional and intellectual needs of each student. The Advisor coordinates communication among faculty members and parents about students’ academic needs and progress.

Students are assigned to a Middle School Advisor for the entire year. The advisory meets daily for 30 minutes. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the Advisor leads structured character education discussions related to shared Collegiate community values (honor, love of learning, excellence, respect and community). A special emphasis is placed on learning leadership skills, engaging in community service, using technology safely and responsibly, and forming an inclusive community respectful of diversity. Other units of character education include:

- **5TH GRADE:** Adjusting to Middle School, exploring Collegiate School values with the help of the Challenge Discovery Program, acquiring learning tools for Middle School success
- **6TH GRADE:** Understanding Collegiate’s values and how they apply to daily experience, making and keeping friends, and learning ways to manage stress
- **7TH GRADE:** Becoming more effective leaders and team members through Community, Challenges and Leadership; exploring community needs and serving through Connect Richmond; developing a healthy body image; improving interpersonal skills
- **8TH GRADE:** Learning about the needs of the City of Richmond and then developing an action plan for making a difference through Envision Richmond; making healthy choices and preventing substance abuse, in cooperation with Lifestyle Risk Reduction; developing self-respect and respect for others

On Wednesdays, students attend the Middle School assembly with their Advisor. On Mondays, their Advisor leads activities related to improving study skills, organization and time management. On Fridays, the Advisor leads community-building activities. Mindfulness is interwoven into Advisory throughout the year.